

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 10-13, without prejudice and amend Claim 1 as indicated below. The status of all claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magneto-optical recording medium comprising:

a magnetic recording layer for recording information; and

a magnetic reproducing layer provided on said magnetic recording layer for reading information;

said magnetic reproducing layer comprising at least one first reproducing layer having a first composition and at least one second reproducing layer having a second composition slightly different from said first composition, said first and second reproducing layers having the same principal ingredients, each of said first and second reproducing layers having perpendicular magnetization at room temperature and a Curie temperature of between approximately 250°C and approximately 300°C, said first reproducing layer and said second reproducing layer being formed as an integral layer, said magnetic reproducing layer including Gd, wherein a difference in Gd composition between said first reproducing layer and said second reproducing layer is in the range of 0.5 to 3.0 at%.

2. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a magnetic intermediate layer provided between said magnetic recording

layer and said magnetic reproducing layer.

3. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a nonmagnetic intermediate layer provided between said magnetic recording layer and said magnetic reproducing layer.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the difference in said Gd composition is in the range of 0.7 to 2.0 at%.

6. (Previously Presented) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic reproducing layer is composed of GdFeCo.

7. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 6, wherein said Gd composition is in the range of 24.0 to 27.0 at%.

8. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of said first reproducing layer and said second reproducing layer is in the range of 35 to 60 nm.

9. (Original) A magneto-optical recording medium according to claim 8, wherein the total thickness of said first reproducing layer and said second reproducing layer is in the range of 40 to 50 nm.

10-14. (Cancelled)